

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 00591 111624Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /025 W

-----118406 120126Z /64

R 111602Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4184

INFO USMISSION USNATO

USNMR SHAPE

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 00591

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, BE, MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE - CIVIL DEPUTY POSITION -

BIO DATA ON BELGIAN CANDIDATE

REF: USNATO 62 (REPEATED AS STATE 5871)

1. ACCORDING TO REFTEL, THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED JOSEPH J.V.M.E. TROUVEROY FOR THE ABOVE POSITION. PREVIOUS BIOGRAPHIC REPORTING ON TROUVEROY WAS: 1) MEMCON, DATED MARCH 30, 1966; 2) BRUSSELS A-465, SEPTEMBER 29, 1970; AND HE IS LISTED ON PAGE 312 OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNUAIRE (1974 EDITION).

2. FOLLOWING INFORMATION UPDATES PREVIOUS BIOGRAPHIC REPORTING ON TROUVEROY:

AMB. TROUVEROY SERVED AS BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA FROM JANUARY 1971 UNTIL 1974 WHEN HE RETURNED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE CURRENTLY SERVES AS DIRECTOR FOR MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF FOREIGN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 00591 111624Z

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. AS SUCH, HE HAS TITULAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMODITIES, GATT AND UNCTAD AMONG OTHER AREAS. IN FACT, HE HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME OVER THE PAST YEAR ON THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE AND ONLY CERTAIN UNCTAD CONCERN (MAINLY THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY ISSUE). ALTHOUGH HE SOMETIMES ATTENDS AS BELGIUM'S DELEGATE TO THE HIGH-LEVEL "EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL

SESSION" (XCSS) OF THE OECD ON NORTH-SOUTH MATTERS, TROUVEROY CLEARLY WAS FORCED TO TAKE SECOND PLACE ON NORTH-SOUTH WITHIN THE BELGIAN BUREAUCRACY TO A DAVIGNON PROTEGE, AMB. PAUL DENIS.

TROUVEROY IS A GOOD-LOOKING, FRIENDLY MAN. HIS TIME AS CONSUL GENERAL IN CHICAGO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A HIGH POINT FOR HIM PERSONALLY - HE ENJOYS BOASTING ABOUT HIS REGULAR TENNIS MATCHES WITH THEN GOVERNOR SERGEANT SHRIVER. HE HAS A SON WHO WAS BORN THERE, WHO HAS RETAINED HIS U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND CURRENTLY RESIDES IN THE U.S. PERHAPS PARTLY THANKS TO THIS EXPERIENCE, HE APPEARS TO HAVE A PARTICULAR FONDNESS FOR AMERICANS. HE IS FRANCOPHONE, HAS RELATIVELY LITTLE DUTCH AND SPEAKS FLUENT, IF SOMEWHAT ERRATIC ENGLISH. HIS WIFE IS ATTRACTIVE AND SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH.

DESPITE THESE QUALITIES AND HIS LONG EXPERIENCE, TROUVEROY HAS IMPRESSED US AS SOMEWHAT OF A LIGHTWEIGHT. HE APPEARS OFTEN TO BE UNACQUAINTED WITH THE ISSUES AND HAS NOT PROVEN TO BE A PARTICULARLY INFORMATIVE OR AUTHORITATIVE INTERLOCUTER. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS IN RECENT MONTHS, HE HAS EXPRESSED A CERTAIN DEFENSIVENESS ABOUT HIS STATUS IN THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL, WHICH MAY HELP TO EXPLAIN WHY HE HAS NOW BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 00591 111624Z

POST. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DEFENSE, DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE00591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780017-0391
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780177/aaaacnfw.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d695eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USNATO 62
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3795708
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE - CIVIL DEPUTY POSITION - BIO DATA ON BELGIAN CANDIDATE
TAGS: PINR, MPOL, BE, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d695eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014